

six o'clock in the evening. An average of thirty-five surgeries are performed daily, but many times the number reaches more than fifty. The statistics are phenomenal. Since Dr. Dicksheet began his work in 1968, more than 40,000 operations have been performed. Financially, his contributions exceed \$80 million.

But, what does the work mean to his patients? Nothing short of a new life! Infants who would have died, unable to suck milk, now thrive. Families outcast by the social stigma of deformity, are restored. Young girls, (and boys), unmarriageable and unable to work or make a living, have a future. Each of the 40,000 cases has a life changing story. It would be impossible to accurately estimate the thousands of people whose lives have been positively affected by Dr. Dicksheet and his associates. And, when you consider that the doctors also teach surgical techniques to Indian surgeons through the Indian Medical Society, the number increases even more.

What makes Dr. Dicksheet's story even more remarkable is that the doctor has conducted the majority of his humanitarian work while he, himself, has been in grave health. About 18 years ago he underwent surgery for laryngeal cancer. His speech is, for the most part, inaudible and he must communicate in writing much of the time. Ten years ago he suffered a severe heart attack, followed by another attack in 1994. In spite of his health he has continued to raise funds, travel and operate from a wheelchair. At this time, however, his health has further deteriorated. He is not expected to live much longer. Over the years he has treated each day as a "bonanza," and filled it with giving his life to his fellow man. "I feel good in giving this service to my countrymen," he responds when asked about his work.

What will happen to his work? Preparation has been made to turn the work over to the very capable hands of Dr. Paul Dreschnack, who has worked with Dr. Dicksheet for nine years and shares his vision, enthusiasm and dedication. As Dr. Dreschnack responded in an interview in 1995, "I'll be doing it (the work) for a long time." I am very proud to count Dr. Paul Dreschnack as a resident of my Congressional district.

The humanitarian contributions of these men sets an example for the world. They exemplify how much more we can give when we are willing to give our lives, totally. They show us how much larger our vision can be when we refuse to see obstacles and we view our fellow man as our brother.

I am very pleased to bring Dr. Sharadkumar Dicksheet and Dr. Paul Dreschnack before you.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL BILIRAKIS,  
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID G. RICE, JR.

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David G. Rice, Jr., a true friend of Colorado's agriculture industry, who recently passed away at the age of 81.

Dave was born on his family's homestead in 1916, outside Grand Junction, Colorado. He

studied animal husbandry at Colorado A&M, graduating in 1939. Dave then went to work in the Cooperative Extension offices of Elbert and Delta Counties for the next ten years, except for time he served in the military during World War II.

In 1949, he started his 33-year-long career with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) retiring as their executive vice president. Upon retirement, he became CCA's Vice President for Legislation and Federal Lands and, until very recently, remained actively involved lobbying on behalf of agriculture.

For his service to agriculture, Dave received numerous awards throughout his career including the Federal Land Bank of Wichita's 50th Anniversary Medal, authorized by Congress and the President of the United States; CSU's Livestock Industry Award; and induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. He was uniquely acknowledged by the 55th Colorado General Assembly for 40 years of service to the industry in the form of a plaque dedicated and hung in the State Capitol, the only plaque hung in honor of a lobbyist. He has also been honored by various conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and the Safari Club.

The best accolades come, however, in the form of what people say about us. I believe Kirk Hanna, CCA's President, best summed up many folks' feelings when he recently said, "Dave Rice is a legend in agriculture—though I doubt he would have admitted it. He was admired by many in both the political and agriculture arena not only for what he did, but for who he was—a man who cared about other people. His contributions to the state of Colorado and agriculture are sure to remain unsurpassed." Amen. I could not have said it better.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to this man whose knowledge and wisdom will be sorely missed by both the agricultural and legislative communities.

### COMMEMORATIVE COIN

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of legislation which is being introduced today by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES-NORTON with the four Congressional delegates as cosponsors. The legislation would amend the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to extend the program by an additional year for the purpose of including the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in this Congress when we passed the Commemorative Coin Program Act, the insular areas were omitted from the legislation. Current law authorizes the minting of twenty-five cent coins to commemorate each of the 50 states through state-specific designs on one side of the coins. It is a ten-year program, with five states being honored each year.

This bill amends current law by adding an eleventh year to the program. During this year,

the District of Columbia and the four insular areas, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, would also be recognized through the minting of twenty-five cent coins. Commemorative designs on one side of the coins would be submitted by the chief executive officer of these areas.

This legislation is very timely for my Congressional district, Mr. Speaker. American Samoa will celebrate the centennial of its union with the United States in the year 2000.

American Samoa has a long, proud history of supporting the United States—ever since the traditional leaders of the main island of Tutuila ceded their island to the United States on April 17, 1900. Tutuila's beautiful harbor is the deepest in the South Pacific, and the port village of Pago Pago was used as a coaling station for U.S. naval ships in the early part of the century and as a support base for U.S. soldiers during World War II. To this day, American Samoa serves as a refueling point for U.S. naval ships and military aircraft.

At the present time, American Samoans have a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is as high as any state or U.S. territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from World War II to Desert Storm. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad, and we will continue to do so.

Congress has recognized American Samoa's proud heritage on numerous occasions, and many of my constituents have asked that the United States Government provide special recognition of the 100th year of our union. I believe it would be most fitting to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of our relationship with the United States with the issuance of a commemorative coin, and I am optimistic that this bill will become public law later this year.

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today we will adjourn for the Easter recess without having had a debate on campaign finance reform. The leadership of this House may believe they made good on their promise to allow a vote, but they have not. The House leadership may think they have fooled the public into believing that they took action, they are wrong. Frankly Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that we have not taken action on this important issue.

Over the next two weeks I will be holding a Town Hall meeting in each of the sixteen counties which I represent in western Wisconsin. Having traveled throughout my district no one has told me that we need more money in politics. They have asked me to pass meaningful reform, to take the big money out of the process and return campaigns to the people. At my Town Hall meetings I will tell my constituents that the leadership has denied me the right to vote on limiting the influence of big money in campaigns.

When we return at the end of April I hope we will make a serious effort to fix our campaign finance system. The people of my district have told me not to take "no" for an answer.